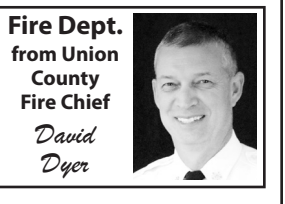


The Mission

Many organizations define their purpose through a mission statement.

Union County Fire Department's mission statement is: "The mission of Union County Fire Department is to prevent or minimize loss of life and property due to fire or other emergencies."



Some of the mission fulfilling activities performed by firefighters include preparing for emergencies.

Responding to calls is probably the most known and recognizable way in which we fulfill our mission.

Training is a major activity that is performed almost every day. This is where we learn how to respond to and mitigate the various different types of emergencies.

The department also has many programs that contribute to fulfilling our mission. Two of the main and most effective programs are the Smoke Alarm and Public Education programs.

See Dyer, page 5A

Questioning Teens

She was only 17 or 18 years old when we met. I'm not sure if her noisy self-confidence was a bluff or self-deception.

The details of what I said to her are less important here than her response. I simply described the evidence science gives for a Creator who is distinct from the material world.

According to Barna research, most teenagers in the U.S. are spiritually open. Barna defines that term as believing the supernatural exists and being curious and willing to explore spirituality in a positive way.

Sadly, that is what happened to Larry Sanger. He was raised in church and attended regularly until his early teens. Even though church and God began to factor less into his lifestyle, he remained open.

It's not just pastors, but all believers who have a calling to be available to the questioner, to be "ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence"

I'm glad to say that did not end Sanger's God story. He re-

See Fowler, page 5A



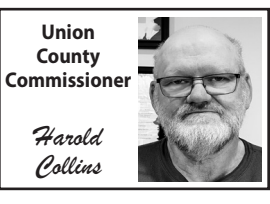
From Your Commissioner

Accountability and transparency. I would like to talk about these two things. I do try to make myself available whenever someone wants to meet with me.

Occasionally, I receive a complaint or a request anonymously through the website or through email. Do I take these into consideration? Absolutely. I take all requests into consideration, and we investigate all serious complaints.

On that note, sometimes missing road signs or bad road conditions create hazardous situations. We get those calls too. The county has over 500 miles of county-maintained roads.

See Collins, page 5A



Continuous Creation

The Mystery of Continuous Creation By Yonatan Hombourger and Tzali Reicher

"In the beginning G-d created the heaven and the earth." This familiar verse from Genesis holds a deeper truth that most people miss - one that could transform how we view both the universe and our own potential for change.



Modern physics tells us that the universe had a beginning. But there's something even more remarkable: our universe's existence right now, in this very moment, depends on an ongoing act of creation.

Think of it like tossing a ball into the air. To someone watching, the ball appears to fly under its own power. But anyone who's played catch knows what happens next - the ball reaches its peak, then falls back to earth as the initial force wears off.

See Hombourger, page 5A

Letters to the Editor

Thank You

I would like to thank the people of Union County, the Sports Medicine Group at Union General Orthopedics and Dr. Doroodchi for the fine service I received during my recent knee replacement surgery.

Daniel Williams, Turtletown, TN

Dear Democrats

I must say I'm sorry, but I feel that after what I witnessed a couple weeks ago, as long as I have breath in my lungs and the ability to speak, I have to say something.

I watched the President's speech to a joint assembly of Congress this month. What I saw shocked me. In the first place, sadly, I don't have very high expectations of Democrats. As of late, all I've seen them do is spread falsehoods, and then when it's pointed out that they were incorrect, they either don't care or feel that they are above everyone else to even issue a response.

See Rains, page 5A

A God of Wrath

Let's suppose that the God in heaven was only a God of wrath. Whenever you messed up, He would punish you somehow and get great joy from it. That God would be laughing so hard to see you suffering that He would split another galaxy to create a place of tormenting hell when you died.

Though there is a God of wrath, praise God there is also a God of pure love, a love that is everlasting and will never end. A God who knows the pain and suffering that we endure in this old sinful world, but there is hope, my dear friend,

See Combs, page 5A



America is BACK

As we were reminded on Tuesday, March 4, America is back.

President Trump delivered a historic joint address to Congress, highlighting his wins for the American people as he works to get our country back on track.

Speaking for an hour and 40 minutes, the President touted his executive actions, discussed how Congress can deliver his sweeping legislative agenda, and presented his vision for our new Golden Age. The energy in the Capitol was electric, as my Republican colleagues and I cheered on the President and his victorious message.

An overarching theme of President Trump's remarks was the return to common sense.

As the President said, "What I have just described is only a small fraction of the commonsense revolution that is now, because of us, sweeping the entire world. Common sense has become a common theme, and we will never go back. Never. Never going to let that happen."

It's simply common sense to secure our borders, deport illegal aliens, remove biological males from women's sports, refocus our military on lethality, and eliminate waste, fraud, and abuse in the federal government. Step by step, President Trump is restoring sanity and commonsense policies as he works to undo the damage that Joe Biden and Kamala Harris inflicted on our country.

I was honored to attend President Trump's joint address on behalf of the Ninth District, and I truly believe it was his best speech yet.

As expected, my Democrat colleagues didn't think so.

Shortly after President Trump started speaking, Congressman Al Green (D-TX) rudely interrupted his remarks. Speaker Johnson repeatedly gave Rep. Green opportunities to sit down, but he refused - shouting and raising his cane toward the President. The Sergeant at Arms ultimately removed Green from the House Chamber. As you may know, the House censured Rep. Green for disrupting and disrespecting President Trump's joint address.

Several other Democrats followed Green's theatrics in other ways, displaying signs, jeering, and even walking out during the President's remarks. Yet it was Democrat lawmakers' silence that spoke the greatest volume.

Predictably, Democrats refused to ap- See Clyde, page 5A



My Curly-Haired Baby

I didn't mind the phrase when I was very young, but, as I grew into my teenage years I felt embarrassed by my mother's pet name for me, "My curly-haired baby." I remember coming home from a hiking trip with a bunch of boys from church.

My Daddy walked away from a baseball scholarship at Arkansas because he missed my mother. So, he came home and married my mother in 1957. Dad got a job at a textile mill in Hackleburgh, Alabama. They paid him to work part time and play on the mill's traveling baseball team.

The house was an old clapboard house built by my grandfather's brother. An old coal-fired potbellied stove was used to heat the house. We did have electricity. The lights of the house were nothing more than screw-in light bulb sockets with hanging down chains used to turn them on and off.

During the winter time we all slept together to stay warm. I was only 3-4 months old that cold December night. Mom said she awoke to the sound of me crying. She felt for me in the bed and could not find me.

While Dad was running around the house, Mom calmed down enough to logically think about the situation and looked between the bed See Cummings, page 5A



Chamber 2025

Last week I mentioned the hard work our school system is doing to prepare our students for the workforce and for the next level they may pursue in their educational endeavors.

With the warm weather arising, that means it is time to hit the greens; our annual Golf Tournament is now open for registration. Better hurry

See Chamber, page 5A



Garden Ready?

Spring officially starts on March 20, but we still have a while to go before we are past the last chance of frost. Let's talk about some ways that you can plan ahead to make sure that you are garden ready when the time arrives.

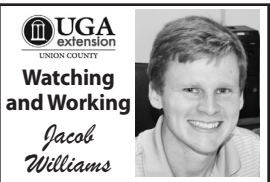
If you haven't already, I would recommend taking a soil sample and bringing it to the Extension Office. The soil test report will give you recommendations for lime and fertilizer that your garden will need. Recommendations can be given for people who want to use organic fertilizers too.

In our area is recommended to wait until mid-May to start putting plants outside. By this time the soils have warmed up enough that seed germination will be better and we are past the threat of frost.

If you are going to be planting from seed in the garden, you can begin buying the seeds that you're going to plant, if you haven't already done so. If you are going to be growing your own transplants under protection, it's recommended that you start them six to eight weeks before putting them outside.

Before you plant put some thought into the layout of your garden. Make sure that you have a place that has plenty of sun. Ideally at least 8 hours a day. For a vegetable garden think about crop rotation if you have been planting in the same spot for a few years.

Spring is the best time to plant summer annuals. I know there is a strong temptation to See Williams, page 5A



North Georgia News

Published since 1909 • Legal Organ of Union County

Kenneth West Publisher/Owner, Shawn Jarrard General Manager/Editor, Derek Richards Advertising Director, Todd Forrest Sports Editor, Lowell Nicholson Photographer

Website: www.nganews.com • Email: northgeorgianews@hotmail.com • Mail: P.O. Box 2029, Blairsville, GA 30514

The North Georgia News is an independent and nonpartisan publication. As such, third-party views contained herein are not necessarily the opinions or positions of this newspaper, e.g. advertising, press releases, editorial content, perspectives expressed in articles covering local events, etc.

Publication No: 001505

Advertising, News deadlines Friday at 4 p.m. • Mail Service for all subscriptions except 30512, 30514 & 30572 (Union County) - One Year \$45 INCLUDING UNION COUNTY CUSTOMER REQUEST MAIL SERVICE. In county, carrier delivered subscription is \$10. All subscriptions must be paid in advance.

Phone: 706-745-6343 Fax: 706-745-1830 • P.O. Box 2029, Blairsville, Georgia 30514

Cummings...continued from Page 4A

and the wall of the house. There I was, lodged between the bed and the wall. She picked me up and hugged me tight. She said she carried me outside and watched by the light of the full moon as my Daddy ran around the house in his long john underwear. All the while he was threatening the kidnappers with his shotgun. After the fourth trip around the house he was losing his breath, so he stopped. Momma looked at Daddy and said, "I found my curly-haired baby."

A few years before I retired from the Canning Plant, I was driving to work one morning listening to the Blue Grass Channel. A song came on by Mack Wiseman called "My Curly-Haired Baby." I pulled

into the parking lot and listened as the song played through to its entirety. A picture formed in my mind of my mother's family sitting around an old radio in the 1940's while listening to the Grand Ole Opry. I could just see my Paw Paw Adams sitting there across from Grand Maw. I could also see Ray, little Shirley with Ralph, Carolyn and the baby Debra.

A tear came into my eye as I listened to Wiseman's rich baritone voice sing the lyrics of the tune. Later I learned that the song was released in the 1940s when Mom, Shirley, was a little girl. I asked her if she remembered it and a smile came to her face. I now know why she called me, "Curly-Haired Baby."

Rains.. continued from Page 4A

favorite toy taken away from them by their parents and put into a "timeout."

Here's the thing: When intelligent people make mistakes, they admit their mistakes, learn from them and then go forward doing their best to not make the same mistakes again. Over the last four years Democrats have made a lot of mistakes. So much so that the American People took them to task and voted them out of office last November.

Since that day, here's where we stand. Democrats lost the Presidency. Democrats lost their majority in the Senate and failed to gain a majority in the House. Democrats do not control the Supreme Court. Democrats have no power in any of the three branches of our government. Most people would look at that and think that Democrats have a lot of soul searching to do.

What was seen during the President's speech showed one thing and one thing only: Democrats haven't learned one doggone thing. They were consumed by arrogance. They were looking down their noses and sometimes even rolling their eyes at every comment that was made with which they didn't agree. It was as if they truly believe they are always correct 100% on each and every issue, have all the answers, and we should just sit down, shut up and let them rule – sorry – govern us the way they see fit.

And the funniest or saddest thing of all is Democrats only have themselves and their disastrous policies to blame for the situation that they now find themselves in. It would seem that they have forgotten Einstein's Theory of Insanity, which states: Insanity is repeating the same action over and over again expecting a different result. According to that theory, since Democrats won't or can't admit the mistakes they've made and continue to follow the same strategy they have followed in the past, they're insane. That may sound harsh, but all one has to do is pay attention, look around, and they will see what I'm talking about.

I hope and pray that some common ground can be found between Democrats and Republicans and we can move forward as a united country. However, I have to say that, from what I saw during the speech, if Democrats can't learn from their mistakes,

Clyde... continued from Page 4A

praised the Trump Administration's incredible work to get our fiscal house in order, cut taxes for hardworking Americans, deport illegal aliens, and bolster our national security. Yet their rejection of several remarkable Americans marked a new low for the Left.

During his joint address, President Trump honored Laken Riley and Jocelyn Nungaray, two young girls brutally murdered by illegal aliens; Payton McNabb, a talented high school athlete who suffered a traumatic brain injury at the hand of a male playing in her girls volleyball match; Marc Fogel, a teacher the Administration freed from Russia after being detained and sentenced to 14 years in a penal colony; and D.J. Daniel, a 13-year-old boy battling brain cancer who was sworn in as an honorary U.S. Secret Service agent.

Democrat lawmakers stayed seated and refused to recognize these precious moments. It's apparent that the

Combs... continued from Page 4A

in a merciful and gracious God who wants to shower us with countless blessings from the cross where God's only begotten son died for all humanity and a God who delights in His children who serve Him faithfully.

God's word is still to be taken seriously when it comes down to one's soul and where that soul will spend all eternity after death comes. A lot of folks just shuffle off to Buffalo without a care about who God is,

that day is very far off or may never come at all.

Now, a letter writer recently wrote that they have a problem. They asked a few questions. "How does a non-elected billionaire from South Africa have the authority to obtain access to the private data of American citizens? And why is Congress, and more specifically, our representative to Congress, allowing this to take place?"

I would say this to that letter writer, hindsight being 20/20, it's painfully obvious now that Joe Biden's cognitive health was going downhill for at least two to three of his final years in office. A President who was that cognitively compromised should have been removed from office via the 25th Amendment. Biden wasn't. My question to the letter writer is this: Who was running the country? I believe the answer is unelected paid staffers and aides, and they were running the country by proxy because Biden couldn't do it.

Letter writer, if you don't or didn't have any problem with unelected staffers and aides running the country and pushing their policies on the American people while your choice for President was in office, why do you have a problem with a naturalized American Citizen who just happens to be a billionaire running one government agency now that another President is in office? You shouldn't have any problem with that based on the past.

For years y'all rebuffed anyone who questioned Biden's cognitive health when y'all knew the man was way past his prime. You didn't have a problem with the unelected anonymous people who were governing in his stead. Your letter is nothing more than selective outrage. You're not mad at something when the people you support do it, but you get upset when the people you don't support do the same thing. Elon Musk was appointed to run D.O.G.E., one government agency, by the current President of the United States. That is why he has the ability and authority to do what he's doing, and that's also why our Representative is fine with him doing it.

I'm sorry if you can't handle that, but there's an old saying: What's sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander.

May God continue to Bless America,
Claude Rains Jr.

Left is having an identity crisis – yet this behavior reveals they might be broken beyond repair.

Nevertheless, President Trump remains focused on finishing the work he started. Rest assured, my Republican colleagues and I are committed to delivering on the President's America First agenda so our great country will be safer, stronger, and prosperous once again.

Collins...

continued from Page 4A bent, knocked down, or missing. It also needs to know about bad potholes, or any other issue related to hazardous road conditions. If you come across any of these, please call the road department directly at 706-439-6062, and someone will address the issue.

I'm a supporter of transparency and accountability. If someone has a request and if that request falls within my authority, let's talk about it.

and sadly, His wrath is coming soon to those who have looked the other way, because to them there is no God. There is no doomsday coming. There is no judgment of sinners, but oh how wrong they are, and soon those who rejected Christ will stand in awe when they hear the words – Depart from Me, I never knew you. WOW!!! I pray with all my heart you will search your heart before it's too late.

Frank F. Combs

Hambourger ... continued from Page 5A

Without continuous input of energy, motion stops. The same principle applies to our entire universe on a grand scale.

Farmers understand this idea intuitively. A planted field doesn't maintain itself. Each season's crop requires constant nurturing – water, sunlight and care. Remove any of these sustaining forces, and the crop fails. The universe works the same way, but on an infinite scale. G-d is continuously creating every aspect of existence anew, every single moment. If this divine sustaining force were to pause even for an instant, the entire universe would simply cease to exist, reverting to absolute nothingness.

This renewal isn't limited to the physical world. Every morning, when we open our eyes, something extraordinary happens. According to Jewish tradition, our souls are returned to us completely renewed, pristine and fresh. The first prayer Jews say upon waking – Modei Ani – acknowledges this profound daily gift: our soul being restored to us with fresh potential, unmarked by yesterday's mistakes or limitations. It's like receiving a brand new computer each morning, with all the processing power intact but none of the accumulated clutter and cached files that slow it down.

This isn't just some abstract philosophical concept. The continuous nature of creation reveals something profound about our own lives. Since G-d creates a brand-new world at every moment, we too have the power to create brand-new realities for ourselves. Each instant offers a clean slate, free from the weight of past mistakes or seemingly unchangeable circumstances.

Think about what this means: your life isn't like a movie playing on autopilot. It's more like a series of photographs, each one a fresh opportunity to compose something new. The limitations you felt a moment ago don't have to constrain what's possible now. The habits that seemed unbreakable yesterday don't have to control your choices today.

This understanding transforms how we view personal change. Too often, people feel trapped by their past decisions, their established patterns, or their perceived limitations. They might think, "This is just who I am" or "It's too late to change." But if G-d is creating the universe anew each moment, then we too can start fresh at any time.

Every morning when you open your eyes, you're not just waking up to the same old world – you're witnessing an entirely new creation. Your past doesn't have to dictate your future. Your struggles from yesterday don't have to define your today. Each

Williams...

continued from Page 4A

plant other things too. Perennials do best if planted in the fall or winter. Planting perennials in the spring means that you will need to do a lot of watering over the summer to make sure that they survive.

If you have questions about starting a garden contact your County Extension Office or email me at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu.

Fowler...

continued from Page 4A

ceived an education, including a PhD in philosophy. He became co-founder of Wikipedia. In 2025, he published a lengthy essay entitled, "How a Skeptical Philosopher Becomes a Christian." It is his personal account of finally finding answers to his questions, and professing faith in Jesus Christ.

As for the self-confident young lady, I pray that she finds others willing to dignify her questions and help her find truth. That may be you.

Dyer...

continued from Page 4A

The citizens and visitors of Union County can rest assured that Union County Fire Department knows, understands, and strives to fulfill its mission to prevent or minimize loss of life and property due to fire or other emergencies.

Union County Fire Department ~Our Family Protecting Your Family~

Chamber...

continued from Page 4A

and get your team registered, 'cause they go fast! Visit our Chamber Calendar for upcoming events. From Young Professionals to Lunch and Leads, to Eggs & Issues, there is something for everyone to enjoy.

Thank you, First Responders, for keeping us safe in Blairsville!

moment, surely we can recreate ourselves, our relationships, and our life paths.

The power to start over isn't just a comforting thought – it's woven into the very fabric of reality. At any given moment, regardless of where you are or what came before, you can have a genuine do-over. G-d is showing us how it's done, one mo-

ment of creation at a time.

Yonatan Hambourger is a rabbi and writer dedicated to serving spiritual seekers of all backgrounds on behalf of Chabad of Rural Georgia. Tzali Reicher is a rabbi and writer who supports communities throughout the regional South. You can contact them at y@tasteoftorah.org.